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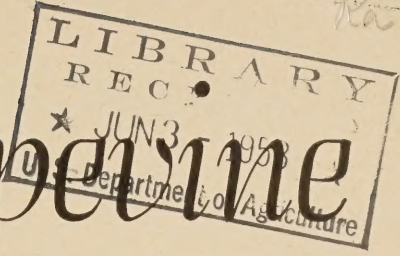
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The Evans & Reeves Grapevine



VOL. 4

MAY, 1953

No. 1

Rhyme in Season

FUCHSIA FANTASY

Ballerina dressed for action,
Graceful as a breath of spring,
Dainty figure pirouetting—
Fit to dance before a king!

In a world of many troubles,
In an age of strain and stress,
You are more than ever welcomed
With your untouched loveliness.

Dance away our fears and worries,
Brighten hearts where e'r you go.
Let the soothing summer breezes
Swing you gently to and fro.

G.F.H.

PLANT OF THE SEASON

ENTER FUCHSIAS

Some people are "nuts". Many people (mostly horticulturists) are just slightly "nuts". And in this latter category probably belong the Fuchsia enthusiasts—that small sect of discriminating amateur horticulturists who sit around biting their nails during the winter months (when there is nothing in bloom but Camellias, Azaleas, Cinerarias, Primroses, etc.)—waiting with ill disguised impatience for June to roll around when to them the real queen of the garden; the Fuchsia, is once more beginning her reign!

And about that time of the year we, too (let's face it), also go all-out for that simple little plant known as the Fuchsia. (Be sure to visit us during our Fuchsia Festival—see back page for details.) As a matter of fact, we will come right out and make the bold statement that the FUCHSIA IS THE TOP FLOWERING SHRUB FOR CALIFORNIA GARDENS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WITH NO EXCEPTIONS, PERIOD! To back it

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SMALL IN THE PADDLE

MIDGET MUSA

For tropical effects few plants excel the Banana. The common ornamental Banana in general distribution in southern California is probably an accidental hybrid two or three generations removed from the wild species of Asia, *Musa paradisiaca*. You may encounter this paddle-leaved plant under such synonyms as Orinoco Banana, Horse Banana or Fruiting Banana. The fruit produced, even under the best conditions, in this area is edible but not particularly palatable. The great rate of growth and considerable size achieved by clumps of the aforementioned Banana are assets only where plenty of room is available. These characteristics can easily become liabilities in the average garden where space is frequently at a premium, which brings us to what we meant to talk about in the first place — the DWARF PINK-FLOWERING BANANA, *Musa rosacea*.

This dwarf species is to all intents and purposes what the name implies, a small edition of the ornamental Banana. Rapid spring and summer growth produces maximum stalks of about six feet in height, well furnished with narrow four foot leaves and culminating in exotic shocking-pink flower bracts. Plants increase in size by soboliferous or sucker growth, spreading in a few years to about a three or four foot diameter. Some manicuring of this Banana is in order and is much easier to accomplish, all leaves being within easy reach; old stalks should be cut right down to the ground after the flowers are spent.

Musa rosacea is fine in the sun and fine in the shade, not particular about soil

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It's time for summer & new perennials

Feeding, spraying, mulching — getting the garden ready for summer—and browsing among some of the newer plants are in order now. There has been such an array of recent introductions, or re-introductions, that even the nurserymen have to pause and take stock occasionally to remember what to talk about!

But first let's take care of the plants we already have in the garden. ROSES are just past their first great mass of blooms in most gardens, but whether they are or whether they aren't — FEED THEM; they are greedy things, like Corn, and like Corn, Roses do rather well for a brief season with little attention, but excel only if they have lots of nitrogen and phosphoric acid. And the same is true with most other plants really. So let's don't be too fussy about getting some pet-name fertilizer; let's learn to read the nitrogen count and the phosphoric acid which is always written on the label. Just remember that most blooming and fruiting ornamentals want lots of nitrogen while they're growing and less nitrogen but more phosphoric acid once they're grown in order to produce maximum bloom and fruit. This is true of Fuchsias, Tuberous Begonias, practically all annuals and perennials, as well as Tomatoes, Potatoes, and so forth.

As for WATERING AND SPRAYING, we cannot do better than to quote from our Grapevine of May, 1951: "As soon as the sun breaks through warm . . . **wash off all shrubbery**, especially Roses, with the strongest force from your hydrant. This cleans the stems, buds and leaves of aphids, red spider, thrip, and to some extent even mildew. Then mix your aphid spray (Have you tried Malathon?), the mildew fungicide and chlordane and spray. There won't be so much to kill but you'll get eggs, worms, spiders and mildew. At this point your plants will remain clean for several days to a week. Now attach your waterwand to the end of hose and **water, slowly and deep**. Without muddying, splashing, or knocking down your heavy-headed flowers you can soak them thoroughly and well. Also your new two-inch high annuals can be watered every day as they require without your overwatering the older flowers and shrubbery behind."

Don't blame climatic vagaries on yourself or your gardener. Neither of you can help it that we had summer in winter this year followed by winter all spring. And

no rain from mid January to mid April. (What happens after this article goes to press WE aren't responsible for either.) Every year has some weather peculiarities; so the same plant with the same handling doesn't perform the same way every season—as you have noticed, we're sure. It's all a bit frustrating at times, but not for long—you can replant or change your style of beauty. New things come quickly now that daylight hours are long.

Now again is the time to set out PELARGONIUMS—85 cents to \$1.50. Many of the best are old-timers like Lady Leslie, a phenomenal pink with deep markings; Brentwood, warm pink; Conspicuous and Azalea, excellent reds. Circus Day is new, a brilliant cerise with few markings.

There are numerous new shrubs, and two or three new Petunias, but in the rest of this limited space we wish to talk about the NEWER PERENNIALS, most of them from English seed houses, such as WACHENDORFIA THYRSIFLORA, cited last month.

POTENTILLA MEGALANTHA is a six inch mound of gray-green strawberry-like leaves and short-stemmed clear yellow flowers, a perfect filler for the front of a mixed border or in the rockery, sun or partial shade; 85 cents, one gallon. DIGITALIS AMBIGUA is a low, truly perennial Foxglove with cream yellow flowers two feet tall, preferring light shade; 85 cents. One of the most delightful blue-lavender perennials to 15 inches and across is ERIGERON GLAUCUS, native to middle California coast and seldom available in nurseries, though we don't know why because it is easily grown with normal watering or considerable drought, and its gray-green mounds are covered with yellow-centered lilac daisies for months. An old-timer we have revived because of its use and ornament is the stately RUDBECKIA LACINIATA, Golden Glow, a six-foot-tall clump of cut-leaved warm green, topped from mid-summer to early fall with extremely showy double yellow flower clusters, excellent for cutting or as a foil in the garden for blue Delphinium; also 85 cents. An unusually trim-foliaged blooming perennial, ever green, is HEBE CATARACTAE, almost prostrate or sometimes piling up to one and one-half feet, leaves to four inches—long toothed, flowers white in six to nine inch racemes, choice; 85 cents. P.E.C.

Hugh Evans

"The moan of doves in immemorial elms
And murmur of innumerable bees."

These lines of Tennyson's have always breathed to me of peace and tranquillity; surely there is no more melodious sound in nature than the call of the wild dove, liquid and soft yet penetrating and carrying over a great distance. The four notes the bird utters fall like a benediction. It is gratifying to realize that so many gardeners today are taking pains to attract birds to their garden—a little water even if it is only a bird bath, where they can drink and bathe, will always attract them, and we should not grudge them their share of the berries on our shrubs, for the birds repay us many times over by ridding us of undesirable insects and scale pests.

Observation will tell us what plants and seeds are particularly attractive to birds, and while they may occasionally make a meal of young seedlings, the benefits they bestow on us far outweigh any harm they do.

Select some spot where you can plant the tall, climbing Fuchsia, *F. Magellanica* with its myriads of small red and purple flowers like miniature jewels hanging in profusion from every branch throughout the year, you will see the humming birds darting around the flowers, getting a perpetual feast of nectar.

The march of human progress and the destruction of forests all over the world aided and abetted by some of the new and deadly insect exterminators are resulting in the destruction of thousands of birds; we in our gardens can help to protect and cherish them.

DWARF BANANA . . .

(Continued from front page)

which may be even sandy or heavy, but does enjoy plenty of food and water. In addition to providing a handsome ornamental for the garden both flowers and foliage may be cut for striking table decorations. Five gallon cans, \$5; specimen plants in 15 gallon containers, \$15. M.E.

Enter Fuchsias

(Continued from front page)

up, we challenge you to show any other shrub that has:

1. A longer blooming season.
2. A greater diversity of size and habit.
3. A wider range of flower colors and forms.

Now this really is nothing new; Evans & Reeves have been aware of this for many years; as a matter of fact, we were probably the first nursery in Southern California to popularize the Fuchsia and through both importations and a breeding program of our own, the first nursery to introduce new varieties.

Since that time, literally hundreds of new varieties of Fuchsias have been offered to the public through the medium of various catalogues, etc. Today, the Fuchsia situation is very confusing! We are supposed to be experts on Fuchsias, but we are continually questioned about varieties that we have never heard about. So in self defense—and in justice to our clients—we will not offer any Fuchsia variety for sale in our nurseries until we ourselves have garden tested the plant for at least one full season! Many nurseries offer hundreds of varieties. We offer fewer than fifty; but we know from experience that all fifty will give satisfactory performance in your garden.

And by the way, of all the new varieties garden tested by us, we find these to be outstanding: RICKY: A lovely combination of snowy white and shell pink on an upright vigorous bush with many stout canes just loaded with flowers. PALOMAR: A bushy compact, rather low grower with an abundance of blossoms of palest lilac washed with pink. BOBOLINK: One of the closest to real blue is this beauty; a combination of intense blue violet and flesh pink. Vigorous, medium height. SERENADE: A tremendous grower with very large foliage and huge clusters of large flowers of coral and salmon. CLAIRE EVANS: Another charming combination of light, violet-blue, rosy mauve and waxy pink.

You can get tremendous satisfaction from the right varieties of Fuchsias; do come in and see the ones we have grown for you; from four inch pots to five gallon containers for immediate effects. J.E.

see 100,000 fuchsia



blossoms in bloom

during

Evans and Reeves

FUCHSIA FESTIVAL

The Southland's loveliest display of the Southland's most popular flower.

FREE ADMISSION:

Festival Time is June 1 to June 30

***CONTEST:**

Name a new Fuchsia Variety and win a prize*

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